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COMMITTEE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE
SOURCES OF ENERGY AND ON
ENERGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
Second session
12-22 February 1996
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Follow-up to the first and special sessions of the Committee.

4. Energy and sustainable development:

   (a) Development of energy resources in developing countries;

   (b) Renewable sources of energy with special emphasis on biomass: progress and policies;

   (c) Efficient use of energy and materials: progress and policies;

   (d) Energy and protection of the atmosphere.

5. Medium-term planning and coordination in energy.

6. Other matters.

7. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its second session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with established practice, the Committee may wish to elect a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

By resolution 46/235, the General Assembly decided to establish the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development. The Committee would comprise 24 Government-nominated experts, elected by the Economic and Social Council for a term of four years, and would meet once every two years. The Committee would retain the current mandate of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, including the consideration of its relation to environment and development. It would also take over the mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources pertaining to energy, as defined in Economic and Social Council resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970. Furthermore, the Committee would address issues contained in Agenda 21 pertaining to energy and related programmes and activities.

The provisional agenda was approved by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 (decision 1995/240).

3. Follow-up to the first and special sessions of the Committee

The Committee will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the first and special sessions of the Committee. A background document on the recommendations of the International Seminar on Decentralized Rural Electrification for Rural Areas, which was held at Marrakesh, Morocco, from 13 to 17 November 1995, will be made available to the Committee.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the first and special sessions of the Committee (E/C.13/1996/2)

4. Energy and sustainable development

(a) Development of energy resources in developing countries

(b) Renewable sources of energy with special emphasis on biomass: progress and policies

(c) Efficient use of energy and materials: progress and policies

(d) Energy and protection of the atmosphere

The General Assembly, in resolution 45/208, emphasized the need for the development of new and renewable sources of energy in accordance with the fundamental objectives of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development

and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. The Assembly reaffirmed the importance and validity of the principles and objectives of the Nairobi Programme of Action and the urgent need to promote a higher degree of independent and environmentally sustainable new and renewable sources of energy for all countries.

In resolution 45/209, the Assembly stressed the need for comprehensive national, bilateral and multilateral measures to accelerate the exploration and development of energy resources in developing countries, and the need to take into consideration environmental and developmental concerns as they applied to all countries in accordance with their respective capabilities and their responsibilities for global environmental degradation. It further stressed the importance of integrated energy strategies and the need for comprehensive conservation and efficient management of energy resources in developed and developing countries, bearing in mind trends in the energy markets.

In resolution 1991/86, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed the need for the United Nations system to intensify its efforts to promote the international exchange of experience and knowledge and the flow of efficient technologies, especially new and emerging ones, to developing countries. The Council acknowledged the need to facilitate access for developing countries to energy-efficient technologies and research, and called upon the international community, including developed countries, to make technologies and financial resources available to the developing countries to enable them to fully develop their potential capability in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, including their vast hydropower resources.

The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1992/56, reaffirmed the need for an adequate flow of external resources in support of the national efforts of developing countries, and requested the Secretary-General to keep the matter under review. The Secretary-General submitted a report to the Council at its substantive session of 1994.

By resolution 47/190, the General Assembly endorsed the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, as adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on 14 June 1992, and urged Governments and organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to take the necessary action to give effective follow-up to those instruments. The Assembly also called upon all concerned to implement all commitments, agreements and recommendations reached at the Conference, especially by ensuring provision of the means of implementation under section IV of Agenda 21.

At its special session, the Committee was unable to complete its consideration of the items entitled "Biomass for energy" and "Development of energy resources in developing countries" and decided to consider them at its second session.

The Committee will have before it the reports of the Secretary-General on an update of energy exploration and development trends in developing countries;

renewable sources of energy, with special emphasis on biomass: progress and policies; the efficient use of energy and materials: progress and policies; and protection of the atmosphere, containing an update of new and renewable sources of energy.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on an update of energy exploration and development trends in developing countries (E/C.13/1996/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on renewable sources of energy, with special emphasis on biomass: progress and policies (E/C.13/1996/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the efficient use of energy and materials: progress and policies (E/C.13/1996/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on protection of the atmosphere (E/C.13/1996/6)

5. Medium-term planning and coordination in energy

In resolution 45/208, the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of increasing inter-agency cooperation within the United Nations system, as well as coordination of development activities for new and renewable sources of energy at all levels.

By its resolution 48/218, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, originally adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 45/253 and revised under the terms of its resolution 47/214, constituted the principal policy directive of the United Nations. The medium-term plan includes a programme on energy comprising six subprogrammes (A/47/6/Rev.1, programme 20).

The Committee will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on energy activities within the United Nations system.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on energy activities within the United Nations system (E/C.13/1996/7)

6. Other matters

7. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee

The attention of the Committee is drawn to General Assembly resolutions 33/56, 34/50 and 36/117 A and decision 37/445 concerning the control and limitation of documentation. In decision 37/445, the Assembly endorsed the recommendation contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/50 that the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the Assembly should be streamlined, and that the Council and the

Assembly should continue to review the provisional agenda for their subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation.

The Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda for the third session and the documents to be submitted under each item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its second session

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/235, the Committee submits its report to the Economic and Social Council with policy options and recommendations.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to General Assembly resolution 37/14 C, in which the Assembly reiterated that subsidiary organs should strive to keep their reports within the desirable limit of 32 pages, and requested all subsidiary organs whose reports exceeded that limit to submit to the Committee on Conferences, prior to its next session, reasons for non-compliance.